

# Proposal

## To Modify the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

### 1. Names and Affiliations of Authors:

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2. **Short Overview of Proposal:** This request is intended to provide a softening of the present mandate within the Massachusetts Restricted Area creating an opportunity to introduce Reduce Breaking Strength in an area known to have limited Right Whale sightings as a thoughtful way both the fishery and large whale may co exist. The resulting requirement of Reduced Breaking Strength full time to gain part time relief is meant to potentially accommodate ever changing patterns and needs of the whale and results in a reduction in stronger lines fished.

### 3. Describe the Management Strategies Proposed:

**Modify Seasonal Closure using Reduced Breaking Strength:** The usage of Reduced Breaking Strength (the sleeve) must be implemented for 100% of fishing effort for the lobster pot trap fishery for the year the individual is electing to fish within the closure time and area (Area A or C as noted on attached). This privilege will result in the placement of Reduced Breaking Strength vertical lines both within and outside the closure time and area. During the re entry to the closed areas (A and C) by way of reduced breaking strength, a reduced trap limit will be applied. The sleeve, as it is suggested to be applied today, Orange in color and inserted every 40 feet provides both a unique and robust gear marking.

**Allow for lobster trap pot fishing without vertical lines in closed areas:** Understanding that finite areas with dense right whale activity may remain closed for short periods. Finding a way to allow for fishing without vertical lines is advantageous in these finite areas and provides incentive for development.

#### 4. Elements:

**Target Fishery:** Inshore Trawl Lobster Trap Pot Fishery

**Target Area:** Massachusetts Restricted Area (See Attached Diagram)

**Area A:** Open within current closure with use of Reduced Breaking Strength  
(see list of requirements)

**Area B:** Open within current closure to vertical lineless fishing only (approval required)

**Area C:** Open within current closure with use of Reduced Breaking Strength  
(See list of requirements) for February and March. Closed to vertical lines for April.

The elements of the request have been designed in such a way to accommodate known whale density.

**Vertical Line Replacement:** Although initially a minimal number of fishermen may wish to enter the closed area with restrictions, those that do will need to fish their full component at a reduced breaking strength, a significant enhancement per individual.

**Enforcement:** Only reduced breaking strength would be allowed in the closed areas as described and will have unique markings at the Buoy for recognition.

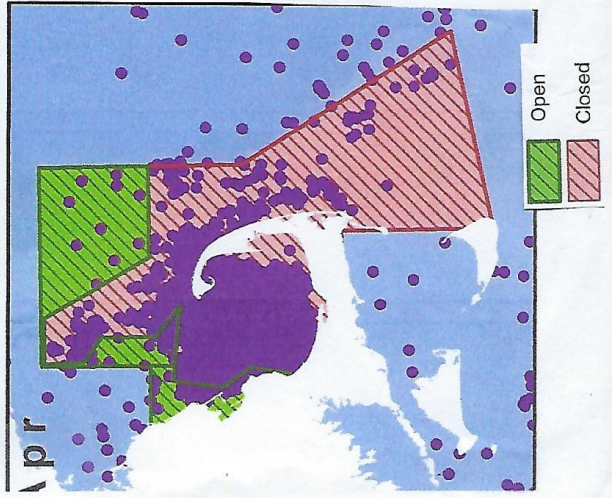
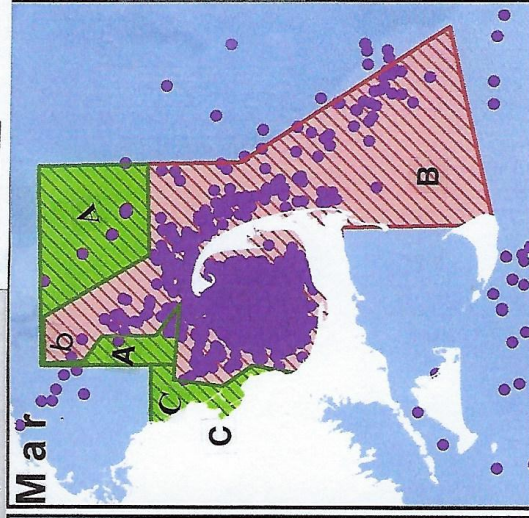
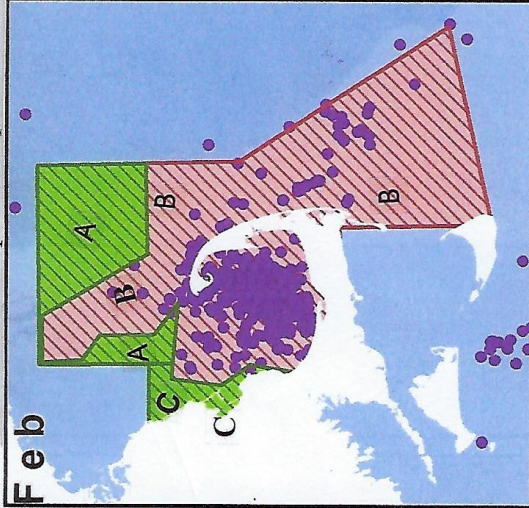
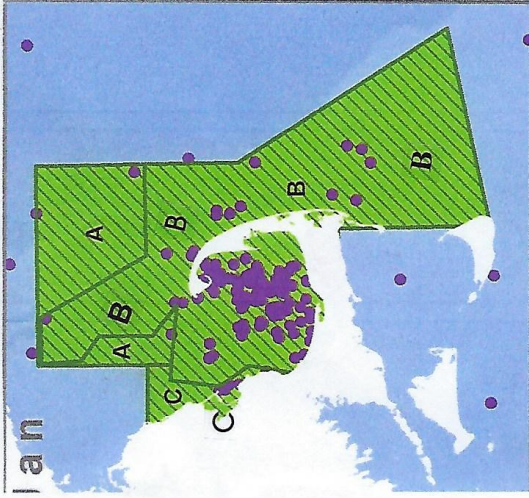
**Reduce Impacts:** Improvements as described in “Implications in fishing rope strength on the severity of large whale entanglements” as it relates to less than 1700 lbs strength vertical line specific to right whales and others along with the recent findings of NEAQ regarding prototype evaluations.

**Fisheries Impacts:** The cost of reduced breaking strength modification is in addition to the cost of doing business today. Presently, the cost is thought to be reasonable by some to gain access to viable fishing grounds. Although few may gain from the relief, it may be seen by many as an effective solution to re open fishing grounds.

# Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Massachusetts Restricted Area Closure

South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association  
September 2010  
Exemption Request

Right whale sighting  
2006-2016  
0 5 10 20 Nautical Miles



## Exemption Areas

Open February, March and April

- 42 07N to 42 11N to 42 20N
- 70 16.5W to 70 28.5W to 70 28.5W
- 42 23N to 42 29.0N to 42 29.0N
- 70 29W to 70 29.0W to 70 14W
- 42 12N to 42 12N
- 70 05.5W to 69 45W

Closed as originally mandated to vertical lines.

Open February, March and April

- 41 40.5N to 41 55.2N to 42N
- 70 32W to 70 30.4W to 70 35N
- 42 09.2N to 42 09N to 42 12N
- 70 33.5W to 70 30W to 70 30W
- 42 12N to 42 12N
- 70 44W

## Requirements

- Restricted at permit level with annual renewal option.
- If option elected, required to fish mandated gear method entire fishing season in entire area fished.
- 50% reduction in effort required during exemption period if elected.

Gear Modification

Sleeve manufactured at 1575 lbs breaking strength

Inserted via splice / tuck every 40 feet on vertical line

Sleeve orange in color and manufactured with unique markings